

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2022 @ 6 PM (September Meeting)
AT ST. MARK'S BARRIEFIELD
VIA HYBRID**

Present: Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, David Selzer, Douglas Michael, Robert Porter, Lynn Mitchell, Pauline Eskerod, James Young, Joeseeph Burnham, Aveleigh Kyle, Barb Gilbert, Bill Clarke, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Trish Miller, Richard Hetke, Jeff O'Hare, Noel Henry, Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

Regrets: None received

Guests: Judy Elms and Al Teale (Parish of Quinte West)

1. Opening Devotions

Archdeacon Bill Clarke

Archdeacon Bill Clarke opened the meeting with devotions pertaining to St. Francis Day. Francis was revolutionary and a radical in his day. Bill reflected on Francis' prayer in front of the crucifix. What is a true faith, not doctrine or dogma? It is a humble one, open to examination leading to engaging the church in much needed reform.

2. Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Adoption by consensus.

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop/Chair

Welcome to the Very Rev. Doug Michael, newly installed Dean of Ontario, and to Archdeacon David Selzer, Diocesan Executive Officer pro tem. Canon Claude Delorme accepted the interim incumbency at St. Paul's Cardinal. The new incumbent at Christ Church Cataraqui, Rev. Lynn Dillabough, has taken up her duties.

Bishop Michael thanked everyone for their prayers and support when Sophie's brother unexpectedly died. He was therefore unable to attend the Lambeth Conference, though he followed the proceedings online. He commended the videos of conference sessions to the Council.

Bishop Michael was particularly impressed with the start-up of the Anglican Communion Forest, and wants to see the Diocese increase its commitment to the environment. A suggestion is that we plant 160 trees for the Diocesan 160th anniversary next year.

4. Approval of the Minutes of June 2022

Chair

MOTION:

Lynn Mitchell/Bill Clarke

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2022, BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair

There was no business arising.

6. Covid 19 Pandemic Status

Chair, DEO, AMP

We continue to hold wardens' and treasurers' meetings (40+ to date). We are in modified green stage. Every parish is different depending on local tolerance level.

7. Finance Update and 2023 Budget Update

DFO

7.1 Columbarium – St. James, Kemptville – not all approvals in place, but it is their intention to place a columbarium.

7.2 Building Fund – St. James, Kemptville – For information of Council. This is a masonry project. The parish will self-fund, estimated at \$215,000 by borrowing from themselves and paying back through gifts and fund raising events.

7.3 Roof – St. Andrew's, Wellington – For information of Council. The project includes removing asphalt and cedar shingles, taking out of chimney, and replacing with a steel roof at an estimate of \$67,000.

7.4 St. Stephen's Bedford Mills – a summer only church, with no vestry and no wardens, and is looked after by St. Mary's Newborough. In order to have the building ready for sale, extensive roof repair is needed to protect the asset. The wardens of St. Mary's are requesting a capital loan of \$40,000, to be repaid when the building is sold.

MOTION:

Bill Clarke/Lynn Mitchell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SYNOD COUNCIL APPROVES A CAPITAL LOAN OF \$40,000 TO ST. MARY'S NEWBOROUGH TO FIX THE ROOF AT ST. STEPHEN'S BEDFORD MILLS.

CARRIED

7.5 Tower Repairs – St. George's Cathedral – For information of Council. Repairs have been carried out by St. George's at a cost of \$48,397.90

7.6 Viability Plans – St. George's, Trenton

Following from last month's presentation on St. George's financial situation, a plan has been prepared by the wardens and DFO. At end of June the parish paid back \$5000+. Lot of positive energy from the Vestry to deal with this. The plan asks forgiveness of outstanding interest of \$5700; converting the CMM owing into a loan of \$67,667 payable over 7 years. The loan will be interest free while current with a 2:1 forgiveness ratio (parish pays 1/3, Diocese forgive 2/3).

MOTION:

Barb Gilbert/Trish Miller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SYNOD COUNCIL APPROVES THE VIABILITY PLAN FOR ST. GEORGE'S TRENTON.

CARRIED

8. Synod 23

Bishop

Location: Queens Bioscience Centre. 160th Diocesan Synod will be held May 26 to 28. Pentecost Sunday Service of Thanksgiving for the whole diocese to be held at the Cathedral with Archbishop Anne Germond presiding.

Bishop Susan Bell has been asked to spearhead the program with the theme “The Mission of the Church.”

9. Ministry and Program Update

AMP

9.1 Wayne has been meeting with Rev. Martha Riddell, discussing significant incidents as she begins her ministry. Congratulations to Martha and her husband on the birth of their baby boy.

9.2 Diocesan Green Group: looking at the Anglican Communion Forest. Could we send some of our 160 trees to hard hit areas?

9.3 At Kingston Refugee House meeting new Canadians. Awesome. Reinforced how important the ministry of refugee support is in the community.

9.4 Taking over PWRDF from Sophie Kiwala.

9.5 Doing interim ministry at Gananoque Rockport.

10. Stewardship and Congregational Development Update

Trish Miller

The Committee is co-ordinating action going forward from clergy wellness survey.

11. Worship Committee

Lynn Mitchell

1st meeting of the fall was held last week. The biggest job will be planning Synod worship services. The Committee has prepared a Calendar of Special Days, located on the website where we’re putting together liturgical resources to assist parishes with preparing their services for these days.

12. FINANCE UPDATE (full details in the Management Statement)

DFO

Income below budget by 3 % and expenses down 8%. Tracking to a lower than budgeted deficit.

2023 Budget

Alex is looking for input and guidance, noting there will be transitions in the upcoming years. He talked about fixed costs and what is manageable, reviewed factors and challenges. Factors include: inflation, deficit, COVID impact, general Synod costs, unknown financial markets, change in Diocesan staff, continued change in needs of churches, benefit of cost reduction/efficiency work and investments,

Challenges: ensuring reasonable stipends, housing and mileage compensation

An online consultation planned for Oct 19th. DFO Alex and Bishop Michael answered questions from Council members.

13. Consent Agenda

Chair

Nothing brought forward.

14. Other Business

Bishop

The Bishop asked for feedback about holding meetings on line, in person or a hybrid format. The consensus at this meeting was to hold future meetings on line. A schedule for leading devotions was set.

October 2022

Aveleigh Kyle

November 2022

Trish Miller

January 2023

Lynn Mitchell

February 2023

Noel Henry

March 2023

Doug Michael

April 2023

Alex Pierson

15. Input for October Agenda

Bishop

Please submit to office.

16. Online Meeting Evaluations

Bishop

Please fill out the on line evaluation; comments are read and do influence the meeting content.

17. Adjournment and Grace

The meeting adjourned on motion of Robert Porter and ended with the Grace at 8:32pm

Date of Next Meeting: October 25th 20 22 at 6 pm. (on line).

Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

Date